UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/962
S/1999/547
18 May 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 10
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 17 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 17 May 1999 from the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, containing the text of the joint declaration on the Kosovo crisis, adopted at the sixth informal meeting of the Presidents of central European States, which was held on 14 and 15 May 1999 in Lviv, Ukraine.

I should be grateful if you would have the letter from the President of Ukraine and its annex, as well as the present letter, circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 10, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

Annex

Letter dated 17 May 1999 from the President of Ukraine addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the participants at the sixth informal meeting of the Presidents of central European States (Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Ukraine), which took place on 14 and 15 May 1999 in Lviv, Ukraine, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint declaration on the Kosovo crisis.

I would kindly ask you to have the said declaration circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Leonid KUCHMA
President of Ukraine

Appendix

Joint declaration

We, the Presidents of the central European countries, strongly condemn the systematic terror in Kosovo, cruelties against children, rapes, robberies and expulsions which are used as the means for ethnic cleansing.

We express our sorrow for the victims and the sufferings of innocent civilians in the whole of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

We welcome all international contributions to bring this grave crisis to a quick end. We call on the Government in Belgrade to undertake the commitments which the international community demands as a precondition for a peaceful solution and which have been called for, in particular, by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the G8 countries in their statement of 6 May 1999.

We attach special importance to the United Nations Security Council in resolving the Kosovo crisis in cooperation with other relevant international organizations.

The countries bordering the area of conflict are exposed to severe burdens because of the recent developments. We recognize the contribution made by these countries to alleviate human suffering. Extraordinary work has been done by international relief agencies, especially the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

We must not limit ourselves to coping with the short-term aspects of the crisis. Lasting peace in south-eastern Europe will only be possible if a future of democracy, civil society, prosperity and security is offered to this region. A high-level conference on south-eastern Europe should elaborate a stability pact, including a comprehensive strategy for the stabilization of the entire region through economic reconstruction, the promotion of democracy and inclusion in the European integration and the Euro-Atlantic structures.